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“The parsonage house is a very good one, and in very good repair, and in a most excellent neighbourhood; the living is valued in the King’s books at £5. 1s. 3d., consequently tenable with any other living. *Quare*, the real value, under the above circumstances, of the above advowson?”

	£71 15 10
Deduct yearly tenths . . . .	. 0 10 1
	£71 5 9

ANSWER.—I suppose interest of money to be 4 per cent. I am of opinion that the real value of the living, if it were to be taken into immediate possession, is two thirds of 25 times £71. 5s. 9d., viz., £1,188. 2s. 6d. The life of the present incumbent is worth two years’ purchase, that is, £142. 11s. 6d.; two thirds of which, viz., £95. 1s., being deducted out of £1,188. 2s. 6d., will leave £1,096. 17s. 6d., or £1,100, for my answer to the question.

J. R. April 10, 1790.

\*.\* It is not improbable but it may sell for £1,200.

\*.\* It is evident a mistake of £10 is in the statement. If the £111. 15s. 10d. should be £121. 15s. 10d., then my answer to the question, instead of £1,100, is £1,250.

$\frac{2}{3}$ of 25 = 16 $\frac{2}{3}$	£. s. d.
$\frac{2}{3}$ of 2 = 1 $\frac{1}{3}$	1,096 17 6
<hr/>	153 6 8
15 $\frac{1}{3}$	<hr/>
15 $\frac{1}{3}$ times £10 = £153. 6s. 8d.	£1,250 4 2

J. R. April 10, 1790.

\*.\* It should be £81. 15s. 10d. 15 $\frac{1}{3}$  times £81. 15s. 10d. = £1,254. 2s. 10d. My answer to the question, therefore, is £1,250 J. R. April 10, 1790.

\*.\* Yearly tenths, 10s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 15 $\frac{1}{3}$  times 10s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. = £7. 15s. 3d. J. R.

*Inquiry into the Average Longevity of Vegetarians, compared with that of Persons who live on a Mixed Diet. By DR. T. FORSTER, M.B., F.R.A. & L.S.*

AMONG the many curious facts relative to the duration of human life which have resulted from the persevering inquiries of persons interested in Life Assurance Offices, one very essential question appears to me to have been left undecided—namely, whether, and in what degree, a diet of vegetable food alone increases the length of life. The Vegetarian Society of Manchester pretend, not only that pure vegetable diet renders man almost exempt from many of the most fatal complaints to which we are subject, but also, that it has actually prolonged the average duration of human life. To this question I beg leave to call the attention of your readers: I should like to see it fully investigated and developed. My attention has been directed to the effects of different sorts of food on different kinds of constitution for many years past, and the conclusion to which I have come is certainly in the highest degree favourable to

the views of the Society alluded to, particularly as respects longevity, to which the pure vegetarian diet seems to be particularly favourable. Now this circumstance, of which I have not the least doubt, brings the question of diet immediately into the category of facts which are the proper objects of inquiry for all Assurance Companies. Having thus ventured to call the attention of these Companies to the subject, I shall take the liberty of submitting the following facts and experiments to the notice of your readers: they are the result of nearly half a hundred years' observation and experience, made in various countries of Europe.

1. I have observed that the physical powers of porters, boxers, and others, which is for a time upheld by flesh meat alone, always fails in the end, and, so far from inducing longevity, conduces to the shortening of life in almost every instance. I have observed the same in almost every country of Europe.

2. In India, the average longevity of the Brahmins and Hindoos, who live on rice and fruits alone, is higher than that of those sepoyes and other tribes who live on mixed diet; but I think a more rigid inquiry into this fact should be made, as Central Asia, with its numerous vegetarian tribes, affords a wide field for useful investigation.

3. In France, Belgium, Germany, and other temperate countries, wherever you find a pure vegetarian, he is freer from disease and longer lived than his neighbours.

4. This subject has been recently illustrated by very able men in the United States. The result of all the recent inquiries in America has been, that animal food shortens life, and that human existence has been protracted to a length wholly unlooked for by a diet of vegetable matter alone.

5. The diet of the celebrated longevists recorded in history had been chiefly vegetarian, as I have ascertained by a very laborious research. This is also eminently the case with certain very great philosophers of the present day; and it is also remarkable that this diet increases the intellectual powers of man to an enormous extent, by inducing a more regular circulation of blood in the brain and nervous system. Byron, the poet, assured us that he always felt the benign influence of this diet. Shelley, also a great poet, never tasted flesh meat of any kind. I was intimate with him in early life, and witnessed his clear intellect and also his bodily strength. A vast number of old physicians and surgeons whom I have known in various countries were vegetarians; and the freedom of these persons from the ordinary inconveniences of old age, though not so generally known, has been fully proved to me, after a

long and laborious investigation of the subject. I forbear to quote various books and tracts on diet, as they are in general well known; but I shall finish this paper by some personal observations on my own case, because they tend to show that vegetable diet not only contributes to health and long life, but also to temporary physical strength—which is a thing hitherto doubted by physiologists. Very early in life I adopted the vegetable diet, from finding myself capable of more intellectual exertion when living in this manner. By degrees I found my health and bodily strength so much improved by it, that I resolved to continue it permanently. A college life, and afterwards professional habits, and the convenience of doing as other people did, subsequently induced me to eat flesh and a mixed diet of the ordinary kind; but so great was the loss of health, strength, and intellectual power, which accompanied the change, that I determined to abandon meat altogether. Other considerations soon afterwards entering into the motives by which I was actuated, I became and have been, for above thirty years, a complete vegetarian. I can now, at over 67 years of age, sit up writing all night, or remain at the telescope observing stars, without the least inconvenience. I seldom remain above five hours in bed; and, without losing appetite, am so indifferent about food, that I can fast all day, and often do so in travelling, without the smallest inconvenience. All this is common to most vegetarians; but what seems peculiar, or at least not generally known or admitted, is, the great augmentation of physical strength which followed a return to a diet of herbs, and which has been preserved to a later period of life than usual.

This circumstance has induced me to examine the diet of the various hard-working classes on the Continent; and I have generally found that the highest average of strength, as well as health, has belonged to those who have been unable to procure animal food. The Irish labourer is one prominent example; but the most satisfactory results have been obtained from inquiries made on the Continent. All these facts, which some remarkable cases have recently brought into my mind, appear to me to bear so closely and with such important consequences on the natural objects of inquiry of Life Assurance Companies, that I deemed it a duty to communicate them to the same and to the public through your widely circulated *Magazine*; and I hope that, hasty and imperfect as my remarks are, the great results to which they may ultimately lead will plead my apology for this imperfect attempt to submit them to the better judgment of your intelligent correspondents.